

MEDAL OF FREEDOM

1. A careful search of the files of the Office of General Counsel has produced no record information on the reasons for the exclusion of the Director from the list of those authorized to make the award, although there are indications that this Agency may have proposed the additional wording that other agencies might receive the award from the Secretary of Defense. The most probable reason for the exclusion of the DCI is the avoidance of public mention of CIA. Such was certainly the case when, not quite a year later, the Executive Order creating the National Security Medal was prepared. This Executive Order ostensibly provides for award of the Medal by the President or his designee. It also provides that recommendations for the award be processed through the National Security Council. At the same time that the Executive Order and the acknowledging regulations were signed by President Truman he also signed a confidential designation of the DCI as awarding official. Confidential arrangements were also made with the Executive ~~Order~~ secretary of the National Security Council, that all requests for award of the Medal would be forwarded to the Director.

2. The DCI could be included in the list of authorized officials in any future amendment of the Executive Order in two ways. The first would be to add his name openly to the officials listed in paragraph four of the Executive Order. The second, copied from the procedure used in connection with the National Security Medal, would be to add the words, "...or by such person or persons as he may designate" following the word "President" in paragraph 2(b) of the existing Executive Order. A copy of these two paragraphs incorporating the proposed alternative changes is attached.

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